

Remarks

Applicant traverses the rejection of the pending claims as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,544,666 to Thiruumalachar et al.. To further the prosecution of this application, however, Applicant has elected to amend the claims as set forth above. By this Response Applicant has amended claims 4, 7, 11, 19, 20 and 23 by deleting references to the word "inanimate surfaces" and replacing it with reference to "greenhouse ebb and flow bench surfaces." This use was not taught by U.S. Patent No. 4,544,666 to Thiruumalachar et al., nor is such a use suggested by this reference or obvious in light thereof. Consequently, Applicant submits that pending claims 4-7, 9-11, and 19-23 are allowable over the cited prior art. Applicant respectfully requests that pending claims 4-7, 9-11, and 19-23 be allowed.

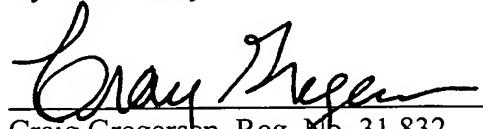
Timeliness of this Response and Petition for Extension of Time to Respond

The Office Action had a three month response date of March 6, 2006. The five month response date of May 6, 2006 fell on Saturday and by rule was extended to Monday, May 8, 2006. As this Response is filed on May 8, 2006, Applicant submits that a two month time extension is required and hereby requests such a time extension. Applicants submit herewith a check in the amount of \$225.00 to cover the cost of this Petition and time extension. Should Applicant be in error, Applicant requests such time extension as necessary to make this Response timely and authorizes the Office to charge any fees or surcharges necessary to make this response timely and credit any overpayments to the Deposit Account of the undersigned firm, Deposit Account No. 502417.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Applicant

By his attorney


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